

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN

Daily (except Sunday) and Weekly.  
By THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN COMPANY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Mr. Winthrop is most desirous that a law should be enacted making the 25th day of

April the inauguration day for the President of the republic, as it was upon that day that the first President was inaugurated in the city of New York, the centennial of which will occur on the 30th of April, 1889. The suggestion is an excellent one, and the NATIONAL REPUBLICAN hopes that it will be adopted by Congress.

Our Colored Citizens.

As far as constitutions, acts of Congress, and state laws can effect that object we have only one kind of citizens in the United States, and, in general, it is better to discuss all public questions, if possible, without any reference to distinctions of race, color, condition, class, or section—accepting it as fact, as well as law, that all our citizens are equal in civil, political, and social rights. It is only when and where this legal equality is grossly violated that we are not only justified, but bound to resist the violation, which is at the bottom of it—for to ignore it in such case is to partake of the criminality of the violation. Hence it is that we are so often constrained, against our will, to consider the welfare of a large portion of our citizens as this is practically affected by race and section. The southern Bourbons, with their northern wingwump and double-faced allies, compel us to this course by their ceaseless attacks on the southern negro, his repeated breaches of the constitutions and laws, and his growing usurpations of power thereby, which threaten our whole country with ruin, and already grasp at absolute federal sway.

In considering our colored citizens and their treatment at the south by the Bourbons, it is a very narrow view indeed to confine our attention to the immediate victims and the local consequences. Whether the negro is a slave, a free man, a citizen, or a colored man, whether he be counted out or shut out, the indirect and more important purpose is to terrorize the white masses and subject them to the rule of the full-fledged Union in both branches of Congress and the state legislatures, which determine what shall be the President and Vice-President of the United States. It has often been proclaimed in Virginia by the vest of her Republicans (and it is just as true everywhere in the south) that but for the unhelpful and unwarrantable use made of the negro to incite white prejudice and fanaticism, the negro would be a citizen of the Union—the large majority of the white people of that state would be enthusiastic Republicans. In short, if there were not so many negroes in Virginia and the south, the race pretense, of which Bourbons now so cruelly and cunningly avail themselves in so many regions, would be exposed, to excite the barbarities, and to secure its insidious domination, would be lacking, and the people, who are so decidedly in favor of Republican principles and measures, would undoubtedly rally to the Republican party.

Let the underlying reason of Bourbon action against the negro, his race, his color, or his previous condition of servitude, but his politics. He is a Republican, in so far as he has any free convictions and independent will, just as any other man would be under like circumstances—his very personal liberation from chattel slavery being due to the Republican party. Still, it is undeniable that he is very voluntarily re-assimilated himself to his old masters, becoming their ready tool to maintain their despotic rule, he would at once be relieved of the discrimination on account of his race and color, now so fiercely enforced against him, and he would be a citizen of the Union, in so far as he has any free convictions and independent will, just as any other man would be under like circumstances—his very personal liberation from chattel slavery being due to the Republican party.

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